

## **REMARKS**

In the April 2, 2007 office action, claims 45-93 were withdrawn from consideration. In addition, claims 19-22 and 25-31 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,752,994 to Monacelli; claims 22-37 and 41-44 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 5,306,481 to Mansour; claims 1 and 4-18 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Mansour in view of EP 0641881A1 to Mullen. In addition, claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) being obvious over Mansour in view of Mullen and further in view of USP 4,522,685 to Mullen; claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Monacelli in view of USP 5,624,470 to Tanca; claim 32 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Monacelli in view of Mansour; and claim 38 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Mansour in view of Tanca. Claims 24, 39, 40 and 45 were deemed allowable, if amended to be written in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

Claims 19-23, 25-38, 40-45 and 94-113 are pending.

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1-18, 24, 39 and 46-93 have been canceled.

Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitation of now-canceled claim 24, but omits the temperature limitation ("less than about 1200 degrees F") and redundant steps. Claims 19-23 & 25-32 are thus believed to be allowable.

Claim 33 has been amended to include the limitation of now-canceled claim 39, but omits the temperature limitation ("less than about 1200 degrees F"). Claims 33-38 and 40-45 are thus believed to be allowable.

Dependent Claim 22 has been amended to correct for antecedent basis.

Dependent claims 29 and 30 have been amended to recite that it is the entrained solids from the second fluidized bed (see claim 28) that are recirculated (claim 29) such as by being introduced into the second fluidized bed (claim 30).

New independent claim 94 is simply original claim 40 written in independent form (without the “temperature limitation” of original claim 19), and so should be allowable. Dependent claims 95-105 are similar to what was claimed in original dependent claims 34-39 and 41-45 (in slightly renumbered order).

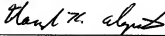
New independent claim 106 is based in pertinent part on original claim 45 written in independent form. Claim 106 does not include either the “temperature limitation” or the language reciting “feeding a gaseous medium through the solids collection reservoir...” of original claim 33. Since claim 106 includes the principal limitations of original claim 45 (which had been deemed allowable), claim 106 is believed to define over the prior art of record. Dependent claims 107-113 are similar what was claimed in original dependent claims 35-40 and 44, respectively.

Reconsideration of the application is requested. Claims 19-23, 25-38, 40-44, 94-113 are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record. An early notice of allowance is solicited so that the application may proceed to issue.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. Should a fee be required, the Director is authorized to charge any such fee to Womble Carlyle’s Deposit Account No. 09-0528.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: July 24, 2007

  
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